



## **On Eve of County Walkout, MTA Strikers Remain on Picket Line**

(Oct. 10) On the eve of a possible strike that could involve 47,000 Los Angeles County employees, the MTA's 4,300 bus operators remained on the picket line where they were joined by some 3,000 members of the ATU, TCU and AFSCME.

The impact of adding thousands of county workers to the cast of striking public employees is not known, although county unions represent a wide range of employees whose occupations range from medical and sanitation to recreation and clerical.

Negotiators for the MTA and UTU met in two sessions, Monday, lasting a total of an hour. At the first meeting, the UTU team presented its counterproposal. After reviewing the offer, the MTA asked for some clarifications during the second session.

### **Discussing counterproposal**

Bargaining talks resumed at 1 p.m., Tuesday, for about a 10-minute discussion of the UTU counterproposal. The MTA expected to make a counteroffer sometime later in the day. No new talks have been scheduled with the ATU or TCU.

At 25 days and counting, the mass transit work stoppage is the third-longest in the MTA's history, halting bus and train service and inconveniencing or stranding some 450,000 daily commuters. Only a 68-day strike led by the UTU in 1974 and a 36-day strike led by the ATU in 1976 lasted longer. The most recent work stoppage was a nine-day ATU-led strike in 1994.

Since expiration of the bus operators' contract, June 30, negotiating sessions between the MTA and UTU have averaged only 4.4 hours per week. The talks have been going on for 168 days, since April 25, but have averaged under two hours per session.

[Back to MTA Report](#)